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WEATHER.

Oregon and Washington—
Partly cloudy with light rain or snow at intervals.

CHARTER-MAKING.

Charter-making is not an art. It is pure business. There is no professional element in it, except what is injected with a fixed purpose. In the simplest construction that can be put upon the task there is no room for politics, no room for private interests, no room for individual aspirations, no room for anything save the public good, equally and impartially applied. Every phase of action that is calculated to disturb or distort the work of the men charged with the duty of charter-making should be eliminated, and the framers should be utterly free to do their whole best without interference, suasion, or undue influence.

The preliminary matter of appointing the most capable and unbiased men in the community is a large and responsible duty in itself and is a vital pre-requisite to the good work expected. It is a nice function to select a group of such men as will be commended by the community affected, and whose is charged with the naming of the commission must do the utmost his, or their, best and most temperate judgment shall dictate in this behalf.

The commission once appointed, it must be given ample leeway of its own; it must not be hampered by extraneous authority, or beholden to any influence beyond its own ranks and rules. Its work must be kept quiet, undiscussed, unweighed, unknown to the public in whose interest it is being wrought, until the whole and conclusive charter or system of amendment is finished and submitted. Then it may be publicly reviewed, revised, re-referred, and brought to the limit of the popular demand. But in the first instance the framers must not be subjected to the vagaries and prejudices of irresponsible advisers. It were injustice to the city and the committee to interpose these conflicting and cumbersome counsels and a detriment to the work, which is always hard enough under the easiest conditions.

The popular desire for any special legislation may be made known by fixed and definite channels, such as the Common Council or other authentic agency, or through communications to the officers of the commission, but the charter-makers should be personally exempt from contact with or criticism by the general public, until its labors are complete.

It should be supplied with the best charter formulas known; it must be first apprised of the specific needs of the community; and advised upon the curative amendments absolutely necessary to the charter as it exists; and it must be given the benefit of a legal adviser who shall be paid for his services as in any other emergency where

recourse is had to such service. But lawyers and politicians, as such, should never be enrolled in the commission itself. That is the bane of charter-making. And this is said with all respect for people of these professions. It is a truth born of downright experience, the country over, and re-born every time the folly is repeated.

The season for charter-making is that season in community affairs where there is the least possible friction, agitation, controversy, and public turmoil. Here endeth the first lesson!

THE MAN AND MOMENT.

If it does not actually beat the record for bravery and self-sacrifice in the rescue of human beings from death, the achievement of Captain Mark Casto and his men comes so close to it as to make the record itself feel uncomfortable. In heroism it has never been surpassed. "My God!" was the cry of the daring sailor, as he looked at the wave-battered Cherokee and knew that sixty-three lives were imperiled aboard her. "I can't see them die so near shore!" And within an hour his little ten-ton fishing smack, the Alberta, had snatched the long-imprisoned passengers and crew from the very jaws of death and landed them safely on dry land. "So near shore!" The grounded ship was only three miles from the New Jersey coast and in plain sight of people in Atlantic City. All the devices of the experienced wrecking companies and of the life-saving service of the United States government were powerless to rescue the ship's company, yet seven doughty fishermen, with only the most ordinary sort of a boat, accomplished the feat. The government has brave, skillful, efficient men a-plenty in its coast patrol—but there are still better men outside the service, it seems. The incident ought to move Congress to offer an adequate money prize to anybody who will invent a mechanical device for reaching and rescuing sea-goers under such circumstances. The heroism to go with it we already have. It is bundled up roughly in other men than Mark Casto, Axel Holmquist, Nelson Kregson, Lewis Johnson, Jediah Schute, Frederick Busch and Frank Maris. It cannot be created by act of Congress, for it is God-given only. In these men it deserves prompt and substantial recognition from a people that has a heart and admires courage.—N. Y. Ex.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

It seems to be officially settled that it is dangerous to get murdered in Connecticut if one dislikes to have the reputation of a suicide.

Another great advantage of it all is that the country is learning about a lot of Congressmen it never heard of before.

The Harvard overseers seem to be expressing a general demand when they want "clean, decent, pleasurable" football or no football at all.

Mr. Balfour is said to have made an admirably temperate address after the returns came in. Evidently he was unable to induce himself to express any decided sympathy over his defeat.

Before accepting Admiral Coghlan's statement that the naval militia is inferior the people will ask him to let them hear how it sounds in poetry.

Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, wants Congress to curb "the unnatural and unholy congestion" of money in Wall street. A more general diffusion of money—especially in Idaho—would meet a long felt want in that State.

From the Budget statement it is learned that the Russo-Japanese war cost Russia \$1,050,000,000. This estimate, of course, does not include the aftermath which she is still busily engaged in reaping.

Thanks to a handsome endowment from a wealthy widow's fortune, a number of the distinguished persons who have been engaged in teaching socialism to the American people for a number of years are now privileged to study that entrancing subject.

Congress should either hasten action on the bill submitting an amendment to the Constitution changing the date of the inauguration of the President from March 4 to the last Thursday in April or else take a leaf out of Ohio's journal of progress and build a crystal palace, where the inauguration ceremonies may take place without danger of death to those who participate in or witness them.

In China, according to Colonel Heistand, of the Department of the East, U. S. A., when a bank fails they first cut off the heads of the officials and then divide the assets among the depositors, with the result that there has not been a bank failure in China for a thousand years. In view of such a benighted condition, bank presidents, at least, will not object to the doctrine, "China for the Chinese."

The report comes from Pittsburg that in that city and its environs more than seventeen thousand persons were killed or injured last year in industrial establishments and on railroads. If that report is true it constitutes a reproach to civilization. Indeed, we might say that it indicates a lack of civilization and of progress in what is commonly supposed to be one of the most highly civilized and progressive communities in the world. Doubtless some deaths and injuries are inevitable. They are bound to occur in all circumstances of human existence and activity. But it seems virtually certain that due care would greatly diminish that casualty roll of seventeen thousand.

Wilhelm Schmied, of Unternah, Germany, who instructed a stonemason to inscribe on his wife's tombstone the words: "Here rests the body of Marie Schmied, who died, after much suffering, from the effects of unscrupulous treatment," has been sentenced to a month's imprisonment for slandering the doctor in the case.

Natural history always interests children, who usually recall explanations of the phenomena in their own way. An account of the habits of the cuckoo, for instance, was apparently absorbed at the time, but was reproduced thus a few days later: "The cuckoo? Oh, that's the bird that doesn't lay its own eggs."

Indiana has made a new record. All her Congressmen are college bred, and it probably will not be long before the aspirant for Congressional honors in that commonwealth will also have to be the author of at least one book. Indiana has taken up culture, and in Eugene Field's phrase she "will make it hum."

A claim was once placed in the hands of Judge Peters, of Bangor, Me., for collection. A notice was sent to the debtor, who called and promised to pay the following Saturday. The Judge said: "Now, don't say you will pay Saturday night unless you mean to; just take a few more days and be sure. Say you will pay next Wednesday." "All right," said the man "if I live until next Wednesday I will pay that bill." Wednesday came, but no man appeared to settle the bill whereupon the judge wrote out a notice of the death of the man and put it in the daily paper. The next day the bill was settled.

Sir Harry Samuel, a Unionist candidate for Parliament, is the author of this bull: "The legislative garden of the Liberals," he said, "is an arid swamp." If such a Parliamentary authority as Mr. Gladstone said, "It is no use for the honorable member to shake his head in the teeth of his own words," lesser lights who blunder in the political arena have no reason to be ashamed. Mr. Balfour once spoke of "an empty theater of unsympathetic auditors," and Lord Curzon congratulated his party on the circumstance that "though not out of the wood we have a good ship."

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